

Ryan Taylor

AP Literature and Composition

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Six Word Memoir Reflection

The Six Word Memoir was a short assignment in the same vein as the "This I Believe" project. However, this time around I had to sum up my idea or life experience in, you guessed it, just six words. Once we had our memoir statement, we wrote short essays/paragraphs about them, explaining what the statement meant and why we chose specific words. I had a hard time coming up with my memoir at first; I spent most of the class and a good amount of time at home trying to think of something that would encompass everything the assignment asked for and also define my own experiences. We did not have to go through the peer review process on this assignment either, so while there may have been more errors, I think foregoing the peer review stage allowed everyone, including myself, the chance to write something a bit more unique without having to worry about who would be reading it.

The creativity required for this assignment made me think more than the average essay. Summing up one's life experiences, or even a part of them, in only six words is no mean feat. While my memoir may have been a little on the cliché side, it manages to perfectly encapsulate the idea I wanted to portray. Optimism, even in the face of difficulty, was the original thought behind my statement. The real idea behind the six word memoir for me was to get across a specific attitude, rather than events or happenings, that defines my life. With this in mind, my six word memoir meant a great deal more to me than a basic description or story. The main idea of overcoming obstacles is a defining one in many different ways, and this assignment gave me an opportunity to express it in a creative way.